

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8699
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

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USIA FOR INA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN FOR SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XF
SUBJECT: VANCE MIDDLE EAST TRIP: KUWAITI MEDIA REACTION AUG. 4-6

1. KUWAITI NEWSPAPERS CARRIED FOLLOWING EDITORIAL COMMENT ON
SECRETARY VANCE'S CURRENT TRIP AND RELATED EVENTS:

A. AL-QABAS OF AUGUST 6 ASSERTED THAT IF THE ARABS
SHOW LENIENCY AT THIS STAGE IN THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS, ISRAEL
WILL BECOME MORE STUBBORN. THE WRITER ADDED THAT ISRAEL'S
STUBBORNNESS SHOULD BE MET WITH A MORE STUBBORN ARAB
STAND. THE WRITER CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF PRES. SADAT
SHOWS A LENIENT STAND, THEN PRES. ASAD SHOULD BE VERY
STUBBORN, THESE TWO RESPECTIVE STANDS TO BE AGREED UPON
EARLIER WITHIN THE "GENERAL PLAN" ACCEPTED BY THE ARAB
LEADERS.

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B. AL-ANBA OF AUGUST 6 NOTED THAT THE ARAB STATES
NOW FIND THEMSELVES IN ANOTHER SITUATION OF DIFFERENCES
OF OPINION ON WAYS FOR ACHIEVING PEACE IN THE AREA. IT
URGED THE ARABS NOT TO FALL INTO THE NET OF "ANTI
INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS" AGAINST EACH OTHER BECAUSE OF
THEIR DIFFERENCES ON THE TACTICS FOR REACHING A
PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

C. AR-RAI AL-'AM (OF AUGUST 5), IN ITS EDITORIAL ENTITLED: "AMERICAN FIGHTS THE ARABS WITH THE SWORD OF GENEVA," STATED THAT SO FAR THE VISIT OF VANCE TO THE MIDDLE EAST HAS ONLY SERVED TO INTENSIFY THE MYSTERY OF THE AMERICAN STAND VIS-A-VIS MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT AND THE FATE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. THE EDITORIALIST CHARGED THAT PRES. CARTER'S INSISTENCE ON THE PALESTINIAN RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL SHOWS FULL BIAS ON THE ISRAELI SIDE AND ANNULS AMERICA'S EXPRESSION OF ITS NEUTRALITY.

D. AR-RAI AL-'AM OF AUGUST 4 ALLEGED THAT THE ARAB POSITION, AS IT IS BEING PRESENTED TO VANCE IN HIS CURRENT TOUR, CONTAINS MANY BASIC CONTRADICTIONS. THE WRITER EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARABS SHOULD HOLD TO ONE POSITION, THAT OF REFUSING CATEGORICALLY TO ATTEND THE GENEVA CONFERENCE IF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATIVES ARE NOT PRESENT.

E. WEEKLY AL-HADAF OF AUGUST 4 OPINED THAT VANCE'S "LONG TRIP FOR PEACE" APPEARS TO BE STILL FAR FROM THE "HORE", AFTER TALKS NOW GOING ON BETWEEN VANCE AND ARAB LEADERS. THE EDITORIALIST ASSERTED THAT THE ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE NOT WILLING TO MAKE ANY EFFORT TOWARDS PEACE BEFORE OBTAINING CERTAIN CONCESSIONS AND ASSURANCES FROM THE ARABS AND NOTED THAT THE ARABS UNCLASSIFIED

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FIND THEMSELVES AT AN IMPORTANT CORSSROADS, EITHER TO GIVE UP AND AGREE TO THE ENEMY'S DEMANDS IN RETURN FOR PEACE, OR RETURN TO THE "ARAB MASSES WHICH HAVE NOT HESITATED IN GIVING THEIR LIVES...." SWEANY

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